

March 8, 1982

LB 817

seven amendments today and I have agreed to six of them, but this is the one that breaks the camel's back. It is the one that attempts to gut the bill and it is the one I am not going to lay down for. Now, I understand Senator Beutler's philosophical troubles with a variety of tools all aimed at helping blighted or substandard areas. I don't find that remarkable. It is easy to hold those philosophies when you don't represent blighted or substandard areas with the exception of one fringe of the Malone neighborhood. I don't doubt that Senator Beutler and I will have radically differing views on how hard the state should strive to assist blighted and substandard areas since, in fact, a good portion of those areas in this community I represent and Senator Beutler does not. It is true that we have 6(b) in this language that provides some special breadth with respect to blighted and substandard areas and with good reason. The idea there is to make those areas more liveable, more habitable and, yes, we are talking retail businesses, we are talking the return of neighborhood grocery stores and the return of neighborhood businesses, the return of revitalization to neighborhoods that are not doing well. They are dying. Now, perhaps many of you don't have firsthand knowledge of those. Perhaps you haven't done anything but drive through them. Perhaps you haven't been going door to door through those areas. But I find that they need all the help they can get, and I have made a serious effort to try to find an acceptable method to do that. I brought in business enterprise zones. It didn't make it off General File. I brought in a tax credit for neighborhoods. It didn't make it out of Revenue Committee. This is a palatable idea that came out of the Urban Affairs Committee six-zip with the support of developers, with the support of the City of Lincoln, with the support of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, with the Omaha Office of Economic Development, with the Nebraska Industrial Development Association and the Department of Economic Development. Now I don't doubt that sometimes philosophically we offend the timid. It seems to me, however, that attempts have to be made some place towards this end, and if the other mechanisms are not satisfactory, I would suggest serious examination of this one. In the event it is satisfactory in the 6(a) situation, then I think it should be a possibility for application with 6(b). This bill comes from the Department of Economic Development's desire to flow money when possible into those areas that the free market system has not been kind to. Now, yes, ultimately the free market system might provide relief for a blighted substandard area after the place begins to look like Dresden. At that point the beneficent hand of Adam Smith will come in when families have been run out, when the land values have dried up, when they

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